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11 February 1986

Input to Carl Ford/DCI meeting

The fraud perpetrated by Marcos has international implications for the US as well:

- In Latin America our well-founded case against the Sandanistas has been based on their insistence on monolithic control and refusal to take divergent opinions into account. If we passively accept what Marcos has done and maintain our relationship with him, the credibility of our case with Latin America will be shattered.
- Similarly, passive acceptance will reinforce the disturbing trend in West European opinion to view the Soviet Union and the US as moral equivalents. In the Philippine case, the charge will be made that the US is willing to tolerate any dictatorship in order to retain access to its bases and its so-called imperial position.
- To complicate the matter further, Soviet propaganda is laying stress not on the Philippine election per se, but on the alleged desire of Filipinos to see an end to US interference in their affairs. Moscow is thereby seeking to create openings for itself with whatever groups emerge dissatisfied with the election outcome: most likely the Aquino opposition, but possibly the Marcos forces who will resent any pressures even if they are able to maintain political control

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